

HAWARDEN

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The History of HAWARDEN

and

COMMUNITY

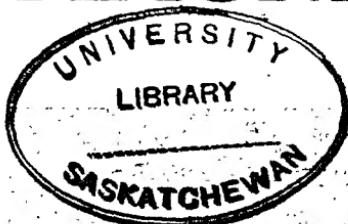
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The History of HAWARDEN *and* COMMUNITY



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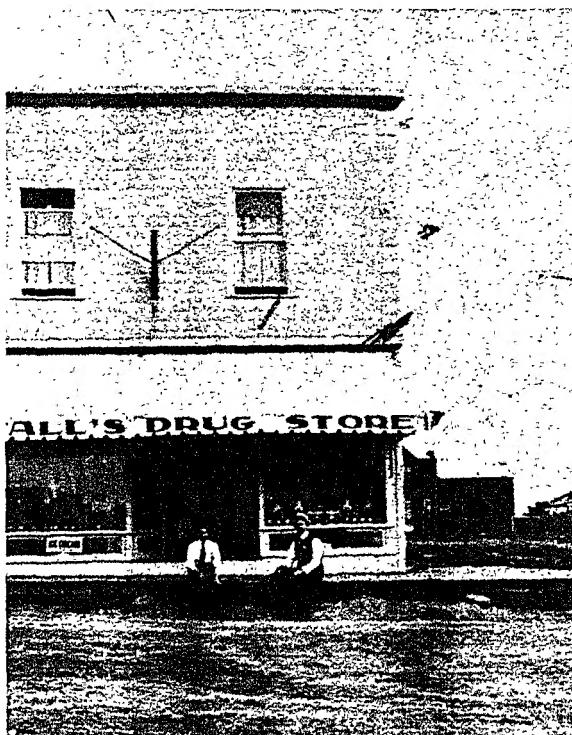
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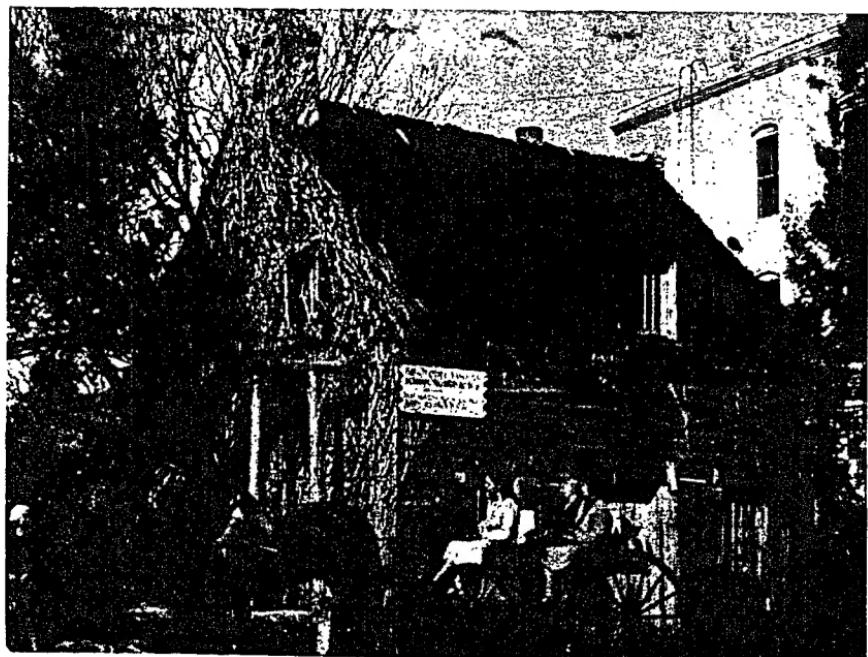
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JUL 24 1950

We, the Homemakers' Club of Hawarden, wish to express our sincere thanks to the many friends who so willingly helped us gather the information contained in this book. This work could never have been accomplished had it not been for their splendid co-operation. We would especially like to thank our good friend "Shanny" (Mr. Nuttall) through whose efforts and generosity most of the pictures were obtained.



Mr. Nuttall and his first apprentice, Wesley Hudson, in front of Mr. Nuttall's Drug Store.



The History of Hawarden and Community

Chapter I

Introduction

FOR as many as twenty-five years before our community had any settlers, cattle ranchers from as far north as Prince Albert drove their cattle, sometimes as far south as Minneapolis in Minnesota, having their supplies brought back to Prince Albert, often by Indians. This trail is still detectable three miles east of Hawarden, across section twenty-nine, township twenty-eight, range four, west of the third meridian. This old trail, commonly referred to as the "Moose Jaw Trail" should certainly be deserving of a memorial landmark.

In the summer of 1902 a company, (the Saskatchewan Valley Lands Co. by name), was formed in Duluth, Minn., headed by Mr. N. A. Warner. The company made agreement with the Canadian Government to bring five thousand settlers to the west, with the right to homestead on all but two sections of land in every township; these two sections being reserved as Hudson Bay and school lands. Mr. Samuel Donaldson a North West Mounted Policeman, who had fought in the Riel Rebellion, persuaded his brother-in-law, Mr. A. H. Devitt, to leave his position as the Superintendent of woolen mills in Stanford, Connecticut, to come to settle in Saskatchewan.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Devitt, accompanied by their four sons, a daughter-in-law and Mrs. Devitt's mother, left Stanford, Conn., travelling by train as far as Regina. Here they filed on a homestead, bought a team of horses, hired someone to drive the team to Hanley, and they themselves again boarded the train to Hanley. The homestead, east of Hanley, was such a disappointment to them that they cancelled their claim and filed a new one. This new homestead, east of Hawarden, situated on section thirty-two, township twenty-eight, range four, west of the third meridian, is to this day still the property of Stan and Arthur Devitt, two of the sons.

It was in the Spring of 1904, that Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Devitt and their family arrived at what was to be their new home. They travelled from Hanley in a wagon drawn by the team which they had purchased in Regina. It was not long before they had constructed a sod house, and their work of clearing the land had begun. They were the sole settlers within the radius of Hanley to the north, the Saskatchewan river to the west, Elbow to the south and

Bladworth which was south and east. The only other land that had been claimed was owned by a gentleman who had already been out to see his property, but had returned to his former home, to return the following year.

THE Devitts were not to be alone in the community for long. That same year George Armstrong from Ontario brought out quite a number of families, among whom Fliggs, Jays, W. P. Perry, Bill Carson, J. Anderson and Bill Grose to name a few. There were other families that came on their own. Mr. and Mrs. Van Leary, their son Leo and Mrs. Van Leary's brother, Bruce Van Hereweghe was one such family. Their homestead was west of the present townsite of Hawarden.

As we have noted, some of the earliest families came to the Hawarden district as early as 1903 and 1904, but the main influx of settlers was in 1905, 1906 and 1907. It was during these years that Hudsons, Keith and Art Robertson, Curries, Taylors, Rowleys, Holversons, Maddens and Collettes arrived.

It is difficult for those of us who have not known pioneer days to imagine what hardships these people had to endure. In some of the chapters which are to follow we may get a little insight into what life was like for them during those first difficult years. It was those staunch hearts who settled here over forty years ago who have made the country a worthwhile place in which to live.

Chapter II

Life in the Early Days

(Work and Play)

LIFE in the early days was not easy. It must be borne in mind that most of the settlers had used everything they had to get established out here in the west. It took all the capital most of them had to get to their homesteads, equip themselves and to build their buildings. Their nearest towns were Hanley, approximately twenty-three miles from where the town of Hawarden was eventually built up, and Bladworth about thirty miles away. The settlers couldn't afford to go to one of these towns to buy their winter supply of coal, so most of their fuel, the first years, was green poplar, cut from the Land Hills or the Saskatchewan river banks.

The work of clearing the land was done with the help of horses, mules or oxen. One woman tells of plowing two hundred acres of land with a walking plow drawn by two horses and the same number of mules.

Most of the crops were sown broadcast. It is difficult to understand how a field of wheat sown in this manner could possibly yield twenty-seven bushels to the acre, however, that was the yield of Mr. Currie's first crop.

The business of threshing the grain was much more of an ordeal than it is today. I believe most of us remember the days of



*Smith's Limited
Harrows &c. Sars.*

Team of oxen owned by G. Shepherdson. The fate of the animals? . . . steak!



Part of a threshing crew.



The same outfit.

the threshing gangs. It was no easy undertaking for the housewife to feed and bunk down a whole crew. At least, they were not, as a rule, too particular where they slept. Many times threshing operations were held up for as long as a week or more owing to unfavorable weather, and the unfortunate farmer's wife had the "gang" on hand waiting for the grain to dry sufficiently. It is most probable that their appetites were none the less healthy even though their bodies were more or less idle.

PRAIRIE fires were not uncommon. The summer or fall of 1905 many acres of prairie were swept by fire. Settlers arriving the spring of 1906 were met with a bleak-looking landscape. Those who were children at that time have as one of their few memories running across a blackened prairie, feeling the prick of the burned stubble on their bare feet. A few years later another prairie fire, before it could be brought under control, destroyed the barn of Mr. Chas Baxter.



The settlers in the northern part of the community drove to Hanley to get their supplies and their mail. Those who lived to the south or west of the community usually went to Bladworth. It wasn't long, however, before Mr. Anderson, who had been greatly influential in bringing out many of the settlers, built a small store four miles south of where Hawarden stands today. He hired a mail carrier to bring the mail from Bladworth to his store. Bruce Van Hereweghe was the first mail carrier making something like sixty miles in the round trip. Many an anxious and eventful time he must have experienced making his trips along the sparsely settled trail of snow drifts, especially on blizzardy days such as were so common during the winter of 1907.

ON some occasions Mr. Van Hereweghe would have passengers to or from Bladworth. On one such occasion one of his passengers chanced to be a young lady who was coming to live in the vicinity. Bruce became attracted to her and in course of time they

were married. This was probably the first romance of the little community.

About this time in the history of the community, the cry of a new born baby was heard. Mrs. Stan Devitt gave birth to a daughter, Nellie (now Mrs. Gillis). There being no doctor within available distance, Mrs. Moss assisted in ushering the wee girl into the world.

There were plenty of hardships and inconveniences in those early days, but there were enjoyable times as well. Everyone was so willing to offer a helping hand where needed, whether it was to doctor a sick calf or to raise a building. Anyone, making a trip to Hanley or Bladworth, would inquire of his neighbors what errands he could do for them while there. In the evening on his way home, he might pass a school or farm house where there was a party in progress. He had only to go to the door and he knew he would be given a hearty welcome to stay and enjoy an evening of good food, games, music and dancing.

ABOUT the first real community celebration was May 24, 1912. For this one day the settlers laid aside their work and went all out for a day of fun. They realized that life could not be a continual round of work. It was not long before provision was made for succeeding days of recreation as they realized that to be a happy and thriving community there must be some means of obtaining diversion from work. For a number of years, May 24 was set aside as their big day of celebration. A band stand was erected and a playground established east of the tracks. Each Victoria Day the town teemed with excitement. Neighboring towns came to share in the fun. The pictures following show the planning and preparations made for the event. Bands, parades, clowns, floats and sports were all the order of the day.

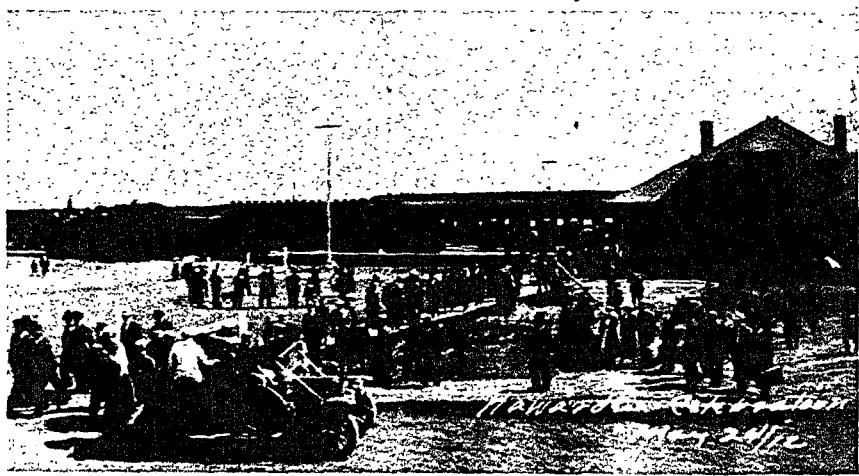
It was some years later that Hawarden decided to change its Sports Day to some date in June. Hanley too, celebrated on May 24 and being so closely located the neighborly thing to do was for one of the towns to change its date in order that they may each share in the merry-making of the other. It was Hawarden that made the change.



A means of transportation.



A ball game in progress, May 24, 1910.



Showing special train. May 24, 1912.



Some costumes. May 24, 1912.

Before closing the chapter on life in the early days, it may be of interest to record an amusing incident in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Ray. Their marriage ceremony was not performed in the community, nevertheless they were probably the first newlyweds to reside in the district.

After returning home following their marriage, it was not long before Mrs. Ray found it necessary to make some bread. It was in the winter, and their house being none too warm, she was confronted with the problem of keeping the bread dough from chilling during the night. She and her husband decided upon taking it into bed with them. The story goes that before morning the dough had gone beyond its bounds and the bride and groom were "rolling in dough".



Gladstone Street (Main Street). May 24, 1912.





Chapter III

Early Development and Growth of the Village

As previously mentioned, Mr. Anderson had built a small store four miles south of the present location of the village of Hawarden. This was very convenient for the settlers in that part of the community. However, there were settlers to the north and the east who were quite a considerable distance from this store; especially in those days of no speedy automobiles. They indeed looked forward to the day when the country would be sufficiently settled to warrant business places within a shorter distance.

A townsite was decided upon along the old Moose Jaw road. This selected townsite was far more central than Mr. Anderson's store had been. The Monarch Lumber Company constructed a small shack in which to store their lime and concrete and other essentials for the building which would inevitably begin.

Mr. Treleaven started a small grocery business, and very soon more such places sprang up. Mr. John Glazier, who homesteaded two and a half miles S.E. of the townsite, built a store which was owned and operated by Mr. Jake Muter and Mr. Young. Later Mr. Sam Clarke purchased it and for twenty-five years served the public from this same store.

By the year 1908, Hawarden had grown to such a size that the residents thought it expedient that they should have it incorporated into a village. To Mr. Milburne, who owned a share of a furniture business, goes the honor of being elected to the office of first overseer. On the north side of the Main street, the village boasted the following places of business: Milburne & Milburne Furniture Store, an International Harvester agency, a hardware store, a bank, a pool room and barber shop and a butcher shop. On the south side of

the street was a grocery store and a lumber yard. Around the corner, south of the lumber yard was a small hotel. It may be of some interest to note that for some time Mr. Beatty, the banker, had had a safe in the McElhinney lumber building before the bank was built, but at the same time the village was incorporated a bank building had been erected.

THE railway, which followed along the old Moose Jaw road as far as Hawarden, had been surveyed in 1906, but it was not until 1908 that it was completed from Moose Jaw into Outlook. C.P.R. officials named the village Hawarden (properly pronounced Harden) after Wm. Gladstone's estate in England. The main street or street of business, therefore, appropriately received the name Gladstone Street.

At the same time that the railway was surveyed from Moose Jaw to Outlook, a branch line from Hawarden to Saskatoon was also marked out. No definite plans to start on that line were made at the time, as their efforts were concentrated on the Moose Jaw, Outlook line. Many residents believe that had it not been for the First World War, this second line would have been laid. To the present day is nourished the hope that some day Hawarden will have direct rail connections with Saskatoon.

Until a station could be erected, a box car served in this capacity. In 1909 the building was completed and Mr. James Robinson the first station agent, moved into his new headquarters.

The post office, after being moved from Mr. Anderson's store, was located in the store owned by Muter and Young. Miss Gertie Fligg learned the postal business while working in the store. In 1912 when the post office was built Miss Fligg's father, Henry Fligg, became postmaster.

The same year that the station was completed, Hawarden received its first grain elevator. What a boon this was to the farmer! Prior to this the grain had been loaded directly to the box cars from the ground. The Canadian Elevator had its first load of grain delivered to it by Mr. Chas. Baxter on Dec. 31, 1909.



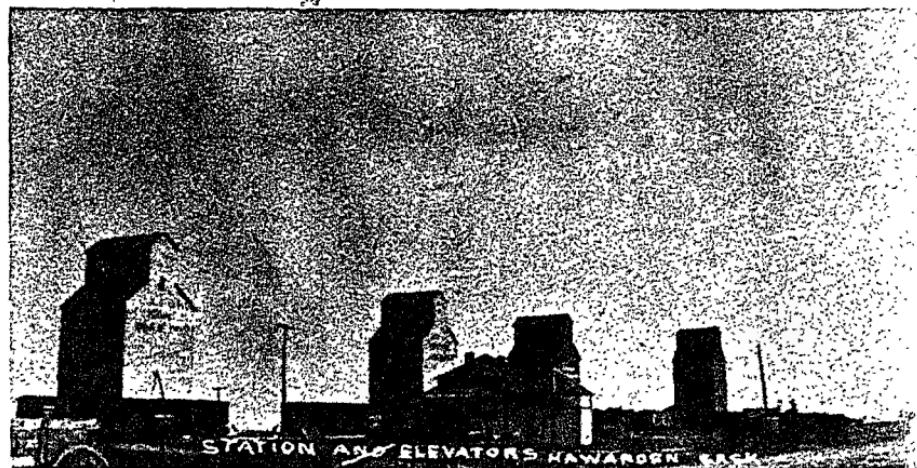


C.P.R. Depot as it was in 1909.

THE following year saw the erection of a second elevator. This Central Elevator, later known as the Western, was not destined to serve the public very long for about 1912 it was destroyed by fire. The International (now known as the Can.) the Co-op (now the Pool) the Mutual (now a Western) the Export (later known as the Reliance and finally the Grain Growers) elevators followed in quick succession. Hawarden was proud of the rapidity with which the community was advancing.

The year 1909 saw another event worthy of mention, for that was the year Hawarden received its drug store. Mr. Nuttall, better known as "Shawny" is still in the drug business in Hawarden, the only pioneer business man who has "stuck it out" in the same business until the present day.

Having a drug store in town was an incentive for the doctor to start a practice in the community. Dr. Parks, the first doctor, had



Four of the town's six elevators.

been in town only a matter of weeks when he was called back to Ontario owing to the death of his mother. The night of his mother's funeral, Dr. Parks died in his sleep.

DR. MONKMAN was the community's next physician. His first professional call was made to the Priddle home where Mr. Priddle was suffering with a painful felon. Dr. Monkman, having no instruments, successfully lanced the painful finger with a razor blade.

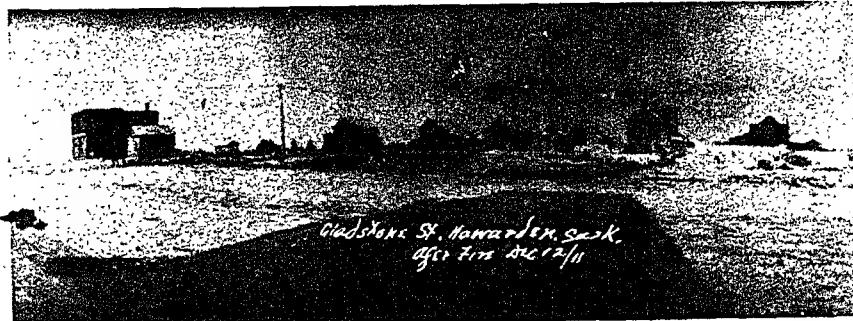
Hawarden was without a doctor for a short while, since Dr. Monkman moved to Loreburn after a very short stay in Hawarden. Most of the citizens of Hawarden remember Dr. Monkman well since it was not many years ago that he was obliged to make professional trips back to the town where he first practiced, since unfortunately Hawarden has been frequently without a doctor the past years.

Dr. Hall, an East Indian, was the next physician to set up a practice in the community. He, too, stayed only a short while. However, such was not the case of his successor, Dr. Burwash, who spent twenty-nine years in Hawarden. During this time he endeared himself to the hearts of everyone. Many a long, cold and wearisome drive he braved to be at the bedside of someone who needed him.

Dr. Burwash continued his profession in Saskatoon where he died almost immediately after having completed a difficult operation.

IN 1910 Hawarden soon received another boost to her development when Mr. Peacock built a hotel. It is believed Mr. Warrlow operated it for some time until Mr. Kohlruss took over. Next and until quite recently Haberlacks owned the building, but with the passing of both Mr. and Mrs. Haberlack, the family sold it.

Hawarden had its set-back as well. December 12, 1911, a fire all but wiped out the north side of Gladstone Street. The bank, drug store, butcher shop, pool hall, hardware and implement shop were all destroyed. Most of the buildings which have since been erected on this property have been covered with tin to safe-guard against a similar disaster.



Showing the results of the fire of December 12, 1911.

DURING the summer of 1912 the town well was drilled, providing the villagers with a good supply of pure drinking water, soft enough for all purposes. A pump fills a large cistern so that by merely pulling on a rope, one may fill his water container. By the end of the following year the pump house and fire hall had been built over the well.



The spot where the well was drilled — 1912.

The wonderful water supply is a great asset to the community in more ways than one. It has made it possible for the village to provide a simple yet very effective means of fighting fires. They have a pressure system attached to their 23,000 gallon water cistern. In the event of fire the hose is pulled to the scene of the fire and the water pressure is turned on.

Mr. Torgersen, who owned the garage and implement business, owned a lighting plant and supplied the town with electricity, until the pump house was built. The village then installed an engine and generator in the pumphouse.

This system was used for lighting the village until the Saskatchewan Power Commission built a line which passed through the village.

Mr. W. K. Jones was the only printer Hawarden has ever had.



The well and fire hall completed — 1913.



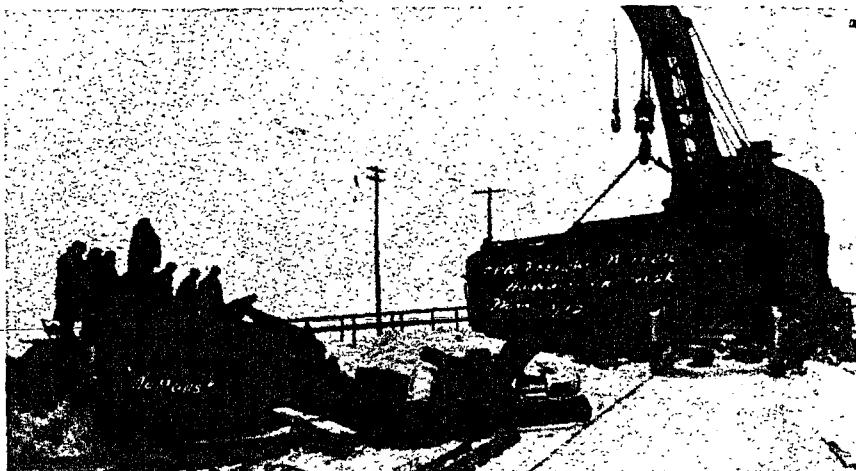
Showing Mr. Torgersen's place of business.

He published his "Pioneer" in his own home until he was able to procure a building for his office. With the passing of Mr. Jones, a few years ago, Hawarden has been without a local paper. A news correspondent sends a report of local events to Outlook, in whose paper, known as "The Outlook" Hawarden has a column.

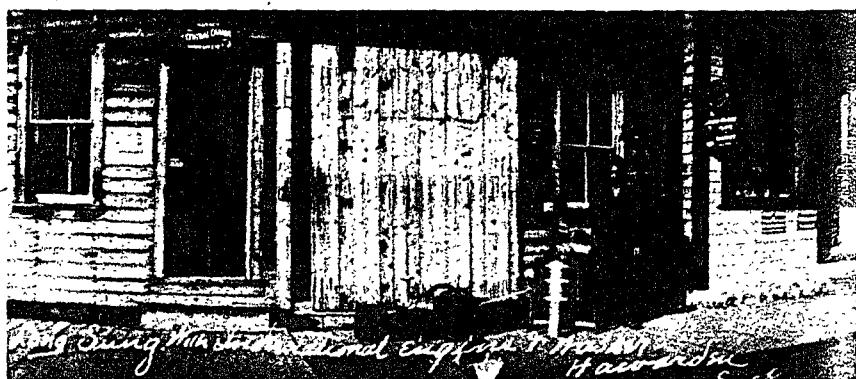
THE local cemetery is worthy of mention. Mr. Van Leary was the first person to be buried in the cemetery back in 1909. Actually, today his grave is not in the cemetery. At that time the cemetery had not yet been laid out, but as it was marked out in later years the fence crossed over Mr. Van Leary's grave. Since then a hedge and trees have been planted and an imposing gate erected. Mr. W. P. Perry and his wife donated the pillars for the gate. For many years the Homemakers made it their responsibility to see that the grounds were cared for.



The picture shows the temporary premises of Canadian Bank of Commerce after the fire of December 12, 1911.



Two views of the wreck caused when the C.P.R. freight left the tracks on the outskirts of Hawarden, March 3, 1912.



First power washer owned by Chinese Laundryman. Taken sometime before end of 1911.

Chapter IV

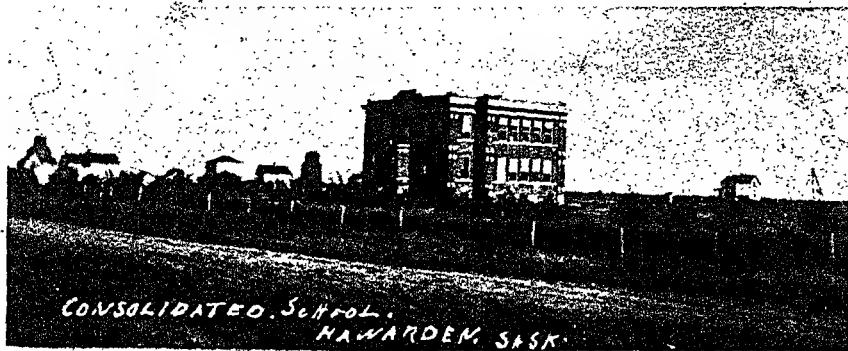
Development of Church and School

FROM all authoritative sources of information Osprey School, erected on the west side of section sixteen on the property of George Hudson, was the first school of the community. Mr. Colquette, one of the early settlers, was in charge of the classroom for a short time until another teacher could be obtained.

Within two or three years a school was needed in the village, and a small one was built in the south part of town. Other schools were also in demand. Mountain Ash, built in 1910, was the next to be erected. It served the district south-east of town. Avonlea built in 1912, Jagoe in 1913 and finally Rippowan in 1917 served the districts to the north-east of the town. In 1920 Hawarden's consolidated school was built and children from the country were brought to school in vans. Osprey school was not longer needed so was moved into town and is now the Masonic Hall.

AVONLEA, Rippowan, Jagne and Mountain Ash districts were not included in the Consolidated School district so continued to be in operation. In 1941, due to lack of pupils, Jagne School was compelled to close and the four pupils in the district went to Rippowan School. Two or three years later there were not enough pupils in the two districts to warrant keeping a school open, so Rippowan, too, was forced to close. The remaining pupils in the two districts were transported to Hawarden, some of them having as far as nine miles to travel each way. Neither one of these schools is in operation yet, and the prospects of re-opening are very poor indeed. Mountain Ash, too, finally had to close its doors and transport the few pupils to the village. (1948).

THE first church services of the community were held in Osprey school house. Methodist student ministers from Regina were often in charge of the services. After the building of the railway and the subsequent erection of the station, church services were conducted in the waiting room. The Rev. Knowlton, their versatile pastor, accompanied the singing of the hymns on a mouth organ.





The vans first used for transporting pupils to the Consolidated School — 1920.

Mr. George Hudson, today (1949) known to the residents of the village as Grandpa Hudson, at one time, favored the congregation with a vocal solo to the accompaniment of the same instrument.

Sunday School was often held in the Fligg home. At one time there were as many as sixty-five persons in attendance. The house was filled to capacity, but an enjoyable and instructive time was had by all.

After the village had their own school house, church services were held there. The McConnell building was the next place used for their place of worship. But the residents of the village and community were soon to have a real church. The Presbyterian Church started in 1911 was completed in 1912, with Rev. Young of



Hawarden School Picnic — August 4, 1911.



This is probably a "May Day" Celebration of the school pupils. The two girls on the outside are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Currie. The centre figure is that of their teacher Miss B. Hudson. Miss Hudson, still a resident of Hawarden and is better known, amongst the inhabitants, as Mrs. Peter Storbo. The train bearer? Frazer Moffat.

Outlook in charge. Bob Ledingham was the first baby to be baptized in the new church.

On October 4, 1914, the Methodist Church opened its doors to its congregation. Rev. McTavish of Regina was guest speaker. It was another proud day for the people of the community, especially those of the Methodist faith.

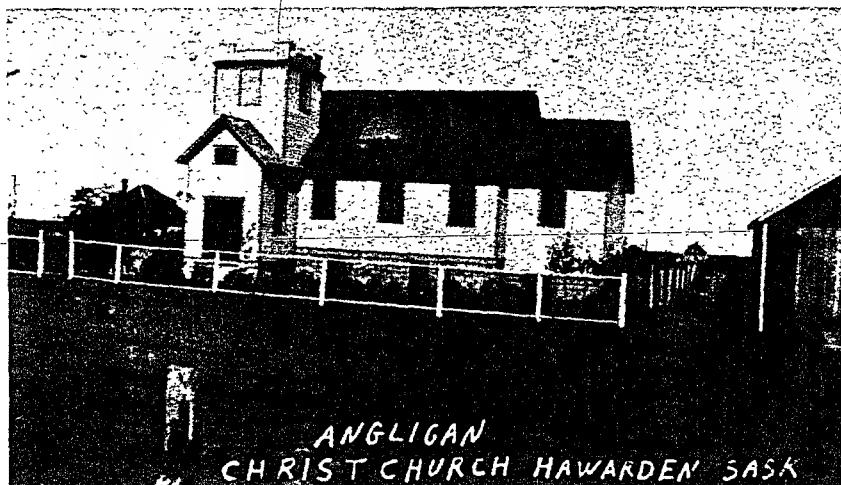
THREE was a flourishing settlement of Scandinavians north of the village of Hawarden. In 1917 they completed the building of their country church. This, of course, was a Lutheran Church, which they named Bethlehem. The name, "Bethlehem Church" is almost synonymous with splendid foul suppers, which they serve the fall of each year.

When the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists united to form the United Church of Canada the Methodist church was decided upon for the place for united worship. The Presbyterian church, no longer needed, was taken over by the village to be used as the town hall, for which purpose it is used even to this day.

The Anglican Church of Hawarden is a comparatively new building, but the pride of her congregation. Below is a picture of the building.

About 1944 another place of worship was constructed in Hawarden. A school house was moved from the school yard to its present site. The main floor repaired and remodelled to provide a place to hold the church services and the Basement made into living quarters for the pastor and his family. It is in this building that the Christian and Missionary Alliance hold their worship.

LIBRARY



Chapter V

Changes in Modes of Farming and Crop History

WE have seen that oxen and horses were the pioneers greatest helpers. However, it wasn't long before the oxen were a thing of the past. Horses were needed as a means of transportation as the oxen were far too slow. Since they, the horses, were needed for this purpose they were used for work as well.

About 1907 the first steam engine made its appearance. A few years later, Mr. Trelford purchased a gas engine. Needless to say, each new improvement aroused the interest of the community, when it proved to be satisfactory it wasn't long before more were brought in.

Mr. Joe Jay was the owner of the first car of the community. It was much like a wagon with an engine and was a chain driven model. Beside our modern cars of today it would be a queer looking machine, but Mr. Jay was no doubt as proud of it and as happy to own it as we would to own the latest model to today. At any rate, the appearance of this vehicle caused quite a stir.

IN 1928 three combines made their appearance. McCormick-Deerings, they were the prize possessions of Messrs Lou Eddy, Olaf Pederson and C. R. Asay. Their appearance caused more excitement and the skeptics watched the results of the harvesting done by the combines with a great many doubts and misgivings. To be sure, the combine would eliminate the need of hiring so much harvest help, but would it get all the grain, would it crack the grain, and more important than that, how would it overcome the problem of uneven ripening of the grain? Whatever the answers to these questions

may have been the combine is a very common machine on the farms of the community at the present time.

The first few years, as mentioned before, were trying ones. The crops were fairly good considering the little work they could do to prepare the land with the machinery available. Even to market the crop was quite a chore until the coming of the railway, and the appearance of elevators. For a while it was necessary to take their grain to Hanley or to Bladworth. When the railway was completed that was no longer necessary but they had to shovel their grain from the ground into the box cars. With the building of elevators, this work was made easier, until today the farmers have very little shovelling of grain. The grain loader, which they attach to their truck eliminates a great deal of this back-breaking work.

THE year 1911 was a great disappointment to the farmers of this and surrounding communities. Early snow and frost destroyed their crops. Many of the settlers were just commencing to get established when they received this set-back. 1917 produced a fair crop and although 1918's yield was only fair, it was a good paying crop. For some years after the First World War things were pretty difficult again. The year 1923 saw the production of a good crop, but grain prices were poor. Between 1932 and the end of '38 were years of great hardship. There was very little rainfall and consequently no crops. The problem of feed for livestock became so acute that the farmers were compelled to limit their stock to two or three head. The fall of 1937 most farmers didn't turn a wheel, as there was no crop to harvest. Russian Thistle was about the only thing that survived the drought that year. Discouraged and disheartened many brave hearts sold what they had and left the community to begin again some place else.

With the fall of 1939 came the first good crop for some time. This enabled the farmers to get on their feet and to begin anew. They saw then that there was nothing wrong with the soil, and that they could raise a crop if only they got some rainfall. Fairly good crops were averaged in the community until 1946. This community has experienced three crop failures again, in the last three years. With the prices good during '46-'47 and '48 it was a great disappointment, especially since this condition is not greater throughout the province.



At the first Hawarden Agricultural Fair 1917.

Chapter VI

Clubs, Societies, Other Enjoyments

AS in most communities the Ladies' Aid Society was probably the first woman's organization to get under way. It provided a great opportunity for the women to enjoy a social afternoon while they accomplished their work. While it is generally considered "The Ladies' Aid of the United Church," women from other denominations are among its members.

In the early days there was a society of gents who called themselves the "Tally Club". To distinguish themselves, they wore a "tally" suspended from their watch pockets. They were never to go out amongst the public without it. This society, or club, of whom our friend Shawny is the only member still in the community, were the source as well as the object of a great many pranks.

At one time the club was holding a meeting in the little club house. It being a very cold night they had such a great fire in the little heater that its sides were red hot. Some of the young men of the town, who didn't have membership in the club, shoved a cow into the midst of the gathering. The cow's first impulse was to stick out her tongue and to lick the side of the stove. Suddenly things were in a turmoil! The cow, beside herself with pain, raced around like mad, eventually bolting into a little wash room. The problem was how to get her out, as by this time everyone was frightened of her. After a great deal of time and trouble the men managed to pull her out backwards by the tail.

BECAUSE of the pranks played by the members of the Tally Club they were often ridiculed. Hawarden, at this time had no print shop, but on one occasion a couple of the members of the Tally Club took it upon themselves to print a paper bearing the news of the community. The following is a duplicate of the same paper copied from the original, which Shawny has had carefully tucked away in his safe. It was so faded on the right side, that it was necessary to use a mirror placed to the reverse side of the paper to read it.

The Eye Opener

Hawarden, Sask., June 14, 1910.

There was quite a sensation in town yesterday morning as one of our business men had a fit of despondency and had to be condoled by the other inhabitants. For a while it looked as though we would lose our worthy citizen, but everything is all right again.

Loud cheering was heard from one of our stores last night, and on inquiring into the situation it was found that the rejoicing was caused by the welcome news that our worthy pastor is to be removed from our midst.

Cheers, cheers, cheers and more cheers. We pity Outlook.

Torgy is still missing; no trace has been found of him, although we have been inquiring for some time. Bob is very despondent. Poor Bob! (Bob was his dog.)

Mr. McLeod of Outlook, is a guest at the Hotel Hawarden at present.

Mr. George Charters is going into the grain business extensively, and is building a large elevator of two bins capacity. (Referring to an-out-house he was building.)

Some of the Hawarden people are thinking of taking a trip to Glenside soon. Where will they go next?

Judging by the stories we hear Hawarden must have its share of gossips when there is nothing to interest them but their neighbor's business. We are sorry that Hawarden has come down to gossip. If you wish to keep in touch with what is going on in the world read "The Eye Opener", if you want the scandal go to the Ladies' Aid.

The question is, "What had the man at Strongfield been drinking when he thought he saw two barrels?"

Some of the boys in Hawarden visited Elbow last week and report that they saw "snakes" before they had been there an hour.

Advertisements

Thos. Shanny
Dealer in all sorts of "stuff"
Come and see us before
buying your hairpins

Hawarden Meat Market
A. L. Moffat
Dealer in all kinds of freight
Terms - Cash

M. E. Miller
Dealer in all kinds of money
but bad money. Butter and
eggs taken in exchange.

TO George Manderson and Roy Torgerson has been given the credit (or blame) of having printed Hawarden's first "newspaper". They never did admit having printed it, but there was no doubt in the minds of others as to who was responsible for it. The paper was not offered for distribution, but was presented to the eyes of the public attached to the glass of Shawny's door. Shawny, unaware that it had been posted there, or for that matter, that it existed, was somewhat puzzled when approached by some of the citizens of the town, and questioned as to the meaning of some of the remarks contained therein.

The annual Agricultural Fairs were something to which everyone looked forward with a great deal of anticipation. To the farmers of the community they afforded a wonderful opportunity of

displaying their choicest products. Judges from the University of Saskatchewan awarded ribbons to the best cows, pigs, horses, etc. in every class. At some of the fairs the men of the community would judge the entries and then compare their decisions with those of the judges.

The fairs were a great thing for the women as well as the men. Here they could display their ability in the culinary arts as well as in a variety of handicrafts such as embroidery work, crocheting, rug making, etc. Then too, the day afforded a wonderful opportunity for visiting with their friends. As people from surrounding communities were in attendance, it was often anticipated as the one time of year to see folks whom they hadn't seen for some time.

THE first Agricultural fair was held in the year 1917 with Mr. Chas. Baxter as President and Mr. Gordon Wheeler as Secretary-Treasurer. They were assisted by quite a large committee, some members of whom lived in neighboring towns. The community held these fairs annually until 19? , when the committee decided upon disbanding.

While on the subject of community societies and organizations it would be gross negligence to omit mentioning the Homemakers' organization, known as the Hawarden Homemakers' District consists of eight clubs, namely, Glenford, Brattan, Bounty, Loreburn, Conquest, Outlook, Red Deer and Hawarden, and is indeed an "up and coming" organization.

Among the other organizations in Hawarden are the Masons, who organized in 1918 and the Order of the Eastern Star who came into existence in 1921. In these organizations Hawarden is again the centre of the surrounding districts, taking in members from Strongfield and Loreburn. At one time Hawarden boasted having Rebecca and Oddfellows Lodges, but for the last few years these have no longer been in existence. A board of Trade has recently been started, and at present is the instigator of a number of worthwhile enterprises.

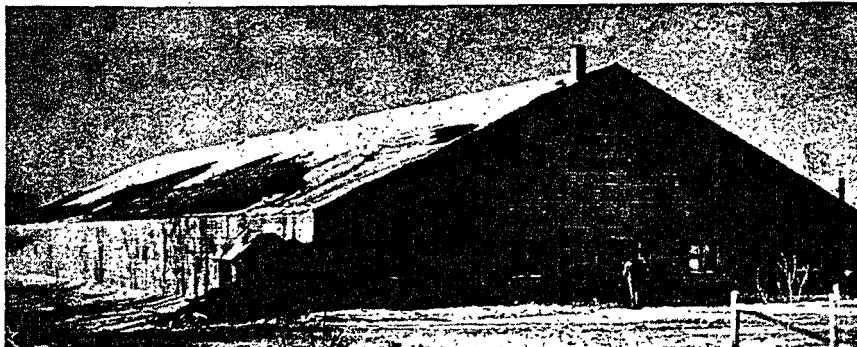
GOING back some years it is of interest to note the development of skating and curling facilities. Back in 1912 there was an open air skating rink where Mr. Tindall now has his barn. Within the next year or two, one sheet of curling ice was added to the north side of it. The old livery barn, which was at one time owned by Mr. George Charters was later used for making a skating rink, and although very narrow served the community until about 1945 when the roof fell in. The remainder of the roof was removed, the rink widened a little, and during the winter of '47-'48 the residents of Hawarden and community again had to content themselves with an open air rink.

During the Second World War plans had been made for erecting some form of memorial for those of the community who lost their lives in the battle. It was finally decided that a skating rink would be the most appropriate memorial. By the end of the war little had as yet been done towards the achievement of these plans. But the year 1947 saw a definite plan being made. By a special drive the money was raised and work was started on the rink the following



Hawarden's first hockey team.

fall (1948). Much of the work was done by volunteer labor on the part of the citizens. Before Christmas of 1948 the rink was completed and ready for use. The opening night was a gala event with Mr. Diefenbacher, M.P., officially opening the rink. Photographers and news reporters from Saskatoon were down to take pictures and record the details. Visiting hockey teams, figure skaters and even clowns entertained the spectators, which consisted of our own citizens as well as those from neighboring towns and communities. The local Homemakers did their best to keep everyone warm with hot coffee, hot dogs and doughnuts, and donated the proceeds from their booth to the rink committee. It was a proud day for everyone concerned and the Star-Phoenix justly praised the efforts which had been made in realizing this dream. The rink is a living monument to our brave heroes and will ever be a reminder of their sacrifices. Those who paid the supreme sacrifice were (Air Force) Angus Kelly, Bruce Smith and Lloyd Bernick. (Army) Norman Brown, Joe Edgar, Leo Bedard and Roland Parks. Bill Perry of



The Hawarden Memorial Rink, financed and built by the community as a living remembrance to the servicemen of the district who died in World War II.



Interior view of the rink shows the high illumination provided for hockey and skating.



Assuring a glassy surface for the opening. Don Pumfrey and Foster Taylor sprinkle a final drum of hot water on the ice. The bucket brigade in the rear keep the drum replenished with hot water.

the Air Force was killed in a crash in Saskatchewan after the war was over, but he was still in the service at the time, and on an assignment.

HAWARDEN picked four of its hardest years to try and collect funds for a memorial rink.

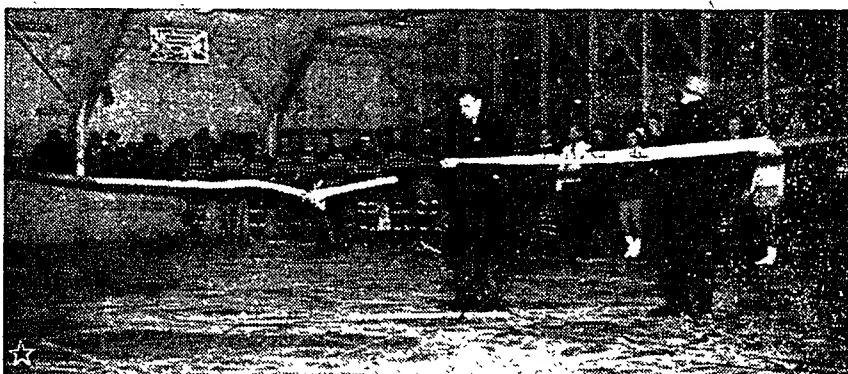
Before the end of the war the people of the community were mulling over what would be a suitable memorial for the "boys" of the district who would not return. They considered a cenotaph, a park, a restroom. The settled on a rink.

A meeting was called of representatives of all interested organizations early in 1944. It must have been a good meeting for the Hawarden Homemakers, the North Branch Homemakers, the Legion, the Legion Women's Auxiliary, the Board of Trade, the Town Council, the United Church Women's Association and the local Masonic Lodge were all able to come to an agreement. It was decided to build a rink and the Hawarden Memorial Rink Society was formed. At the same meeting a ways and means committee was appointed.

This committee had the task of finding how funds could be raised in a community where a farmer was considered successful if he was able to raise a crop that returned eight bushels to the acre. In spite of three successive near-crop failures the money has been raised. By donations, sports days, dances and the sale of a truck, \$14,000 found their way to the rink coffers. The rink was started in June 1948 and was completed for the opening day December 17.

The building was erected by Art Pumfrey, a local contractor who set a fine example by working one day each week without charge as his contribution to the rink. Almost everyone in the community, town and country, contributed at least one day's time and labor to the effort and many spent several times that.

It is up now, 80 by 190 feet overall with a sheet of ice 70 by 170 for skating and hockey.

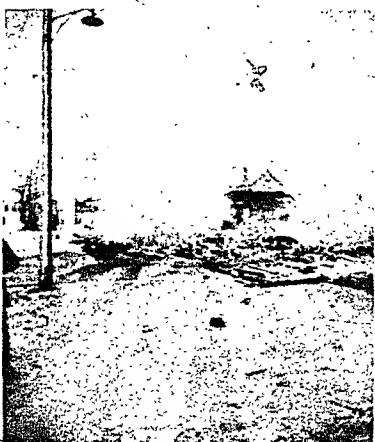


Before over 600 people, John Diefenbaker, M.P. for Lake Centre, cut the tape to officially open the rink. The ceremony was followed by an exhibition hockey game between the Hawarden All-Stars and the Saskatoon Wesleys. Figure skating was performed between periods by members of the Saskatoon Figure Skating Club. A dance in the town hall after the game topped off the celebrations.

It contains, also, two heated waiting rooms, one of which is equipped to double as a kitchen for special events, two rooms for players when hockey is on and a gallery to seat 150 above these rooms. A dugout has been constructed behind the rink to assure a supply of water for flooding purposes. A corrugated aluminum roof is a feature of the rink, said to be more weather proof and heat-proof than alternative material.

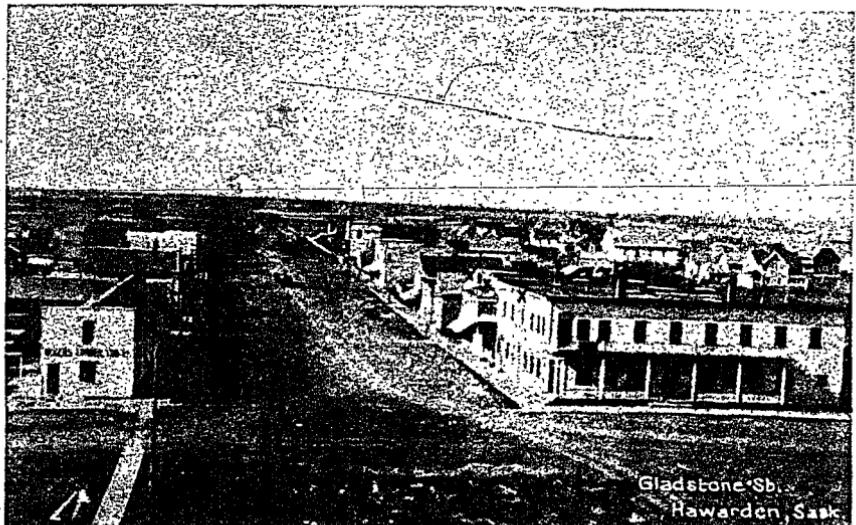
THE curling rink, which is still in pretty fair condition is the centre of a great deal of winter enthusiasm. Proceeds are at present being raised to move the building adjacent to the newly completed skating rink.

Boxing Day of the year 1948 was one of great excitement for the community. Several of the men of town had just left for Girvin to curl. They hadn't gone very far when the siren sounded. Practically everyone left his home to find the whereabouts of the fire. For awhile there was expressed the fear that there were too few men left in town to combat it. It wasn't long, however, before the hose was out and water was being poured unto the store building owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roche, who were away in Saskatoon. Had it not been for the efficiency of the men and the adequate fire fighting equipment, not only that store, but the building adjoining it as well as the hotel would have been destroyed. It might be mentioned that by telephoning farmers along the road to Kenaston the curlers were informed of the trouble and returned home.



Two views of the hotel block the morning following the fire of Sunday, January 2, 1949.

The rejoicing over the fact that the fire had been brought under control (but with great damage to the store and contents) was short lived. The following Sunday night during a howling wind with drifting snow the weird sound of the siren was heard again. This time, the fire which had started in the building between the damaged store was not brought under control until it had demolished all three buildings. Efforts were concentrated on saving other buildings near-by, especially the lumber yard which was across the street,



The three buildings marked with an "X" are the ones which were destroyed by the fire on January 2, 1949.

it being endangered owing to the high wind. Investigators have not yet arrived at the cause of the fire as the building in which it started had been vacant for several months. The loss of the hotel which had so recently been remodelled and re-equipped and which housed a splendid cafe, was indeed a great loss. The town has now no adequate accommodation for travellers who find it necessary to stay overnight.

This account brings as far as possible up-to-date, the history of the village of Hawarden and the surrounding community. To follow are a few more pictures of interest, taken in the early days.



The "proof of the pudding" — Mr. Walter Coles on arriving home after a big game hunt in the north. Mr. Coles is still farming N.E. of Hawarden.

THE following is interesting material received after this book had been completed.

The first village council held its meeting in the office of the McEllhiney Lumber Co. The council consisted of J. B. Muter, George Charters and W. H. Jay. Mr. Myron Brown was the first Secretary-Treasurer and served in that capacity until late 1912 when he went East for Christmas. All books and papers were turned over to Mr. W. H. Jay until Mr. Stevens was appointed by the council to take his place.

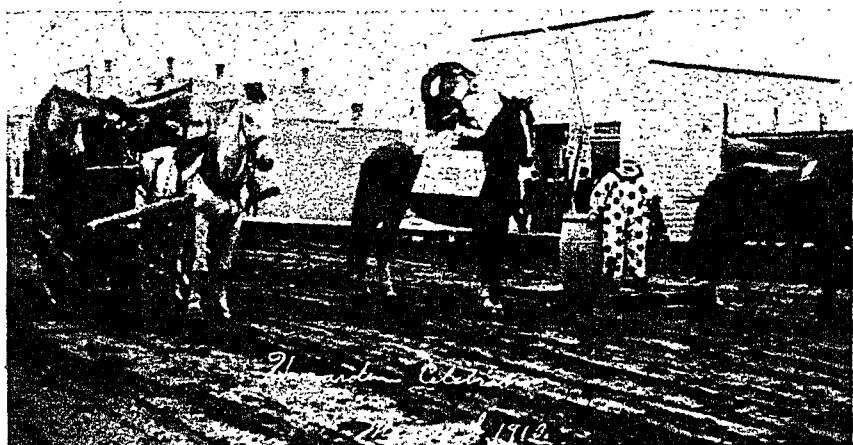
Recently two events have taken place which are worthy of mention. An attractive twelve-roomed hotel has been erected and was opened to the public the fore part of October 1949, with Mr. H. Eltom and Mr. E. Bartlett joint-proprietors. This building with its eating accommodations not only serves the immediate community but travellers at large.

In February of 1949 a women's curling rink from Hawarden, consisting of Mrs. Leo Rowley (skip), Miss Marj. McPherson (3rd), Mrs. M. A. Brown (2nd) and Mrs. Don Pomfrey (lead) entered the Bonspiel at Moose Jaw, winning the Grand Aggregate prize together with the first prize in the Joyner's Event. This feat, not only brought honor to themselves, but put Hawarden on the map as a sports loving community. Below is a picture of the renowned rink.





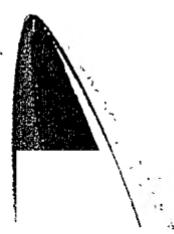
The livery stable which burned to the ground in 1929.



More May 24th celebrations. —







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